

**The Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee (PYDAC)**

March 10, 2010

7 to 9 pm

Sister Cities Conference Room 1101

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Maria Wasowski – Chair

Russell Kopp

Jennifer Taylor

Quynn Nguyen

Stephen Koenig

Charlotte Landis

Joe Hart

**Excused Absences:**

Sylvia Sibrover

**City Staff:**

Kristen Mitten, Urban Planner, P&Z

Gwen Wright, Development Chief, P&Z

Matt Melkerson, T&ES

**Applicant Representatives:**

Ken Wire, McGuire Woods

**Community:**

Dave Levy

Gary Carr

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Approval of PYDAC Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2009
2. “Potomac Yard 101” – a presentation by Planning and Zoning Staff on the Potomac Yard planning/development process over the years and a review of important planning documents related to the property
3. Questions and discussion of additional training/presentations to be scheduled at upcoming meetings

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. A quorum for the meeting was established.

## **DISCUSSION**

- Staff noted that a new PYDAC member – Brett Libresco – had to resign before actually attending his first meeting. Mr. Libresco was appointed to the ARHA Board and could not serve on both groups. The vacant slot has been advertised and a new member should be appointed before the next meeting.
- Staff provided a briefing to the PYDAC on the evolution of plans for Potomac Yard and on the overall planning and development process in the City of Alexandria. This presentation has been posted on the City website. The link is:  
[http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/planning/info/potomacyard/2010.03.10\\_PY%20Overview\\_WEB.pdf](http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/planning/info/potomacyard/2010.03.10_PY%20Overview_WEB.pdf)
- There was a detailed discussion of Potomac Yard and the City development process both during and after the presentation. Maria Wasowski noted that it would be good to get a list of updates that have occurred since the Design Guidelines were published. Kristen Mitten noted that the developer – Potomac Yard Development LLC (PYD) – is responsible for updating the Guidelines. There was a general reaffirmation of PYDAC's primary focus on design.
- Steve Koenig mentioned that upcoming training on the Design Guidelines would be helpful and it would be best to do it as a case study of an already-approved project. The idea was raised of doing a retrospective on the approved plan for Landbays I and J East, in terms of how the Guidelines were applied.
- Maria Wasowski noted that PYDAC needs lead time before projects are actually discussed at a meeting to read about the project and gain an understanding of the proposal. Staff agreed that PYDAC will receive electronic copies of proposed plans – either by email or by linking to the plans posts on the City website – in advance. In addition, there will be a simple written report from staff to provide background information and details of the proposal.
- It was agreed that the next meeting would be on April 14<sup>th</sup> and that staff would prepare a presentation on how the Design Guidelines were applied in the review of Landbays I and J East.
- Russell Kopp moved approval of the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and Quynn Nguyen seconded his motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.